PART THREE  
“The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho  
1/2/12

Part three of “The Alchemist” picks up with the continuation of the boy and the Englishmen traveling in the caravan to get to the oasis. The boy continues to ask the Englishmen about alchemy and reads his books to further understand it. While traveling a terrible war starts between different group of tribesman in the dessert, but luckily the caravans make it to the oasis safely. However they are still far from Egypt, but the boy is just pleased to be done his fearful traveling. The story then is switched to the Alchemists point of view. He says that an omen has told him that there is someone from the caravan who will find him and learn from him. The point of view is then switched back to the boy and Englishman and the rest of the people from the caravan. The driver assures everyone that they are safe in this city because a lot of children and women live there. The following day the group sets out in search of the Alchemist. Along the way the boy comes to a well where he meets a girl named Fatima. The boy immediately falls in love with her and meets her at the well every single day. He tells her about his personal legend and that he will stay with her forever. She assures him that no matter what he does she will wait for him because she is a woman of the dessert and that’s what she does, she waits. When the boy is leaving a meeting with the chieftains he encounters a horsemen dressed in black. The boy tells him that he is trying to seek out his personal legend and the horsemen reply’s that he must test his courage, and that he must not give up on his goal. We come to find that the horseman is the Alchemist. When the boy returns to meet with the Alchemist he says that he must trade in his camel for a horse and that he must seek out his treasure, the pyramids.

This section was my least favorite. It was very slow and hard to follow. The section where the boy met with the chieftains confused me the most because I didn’t understand all the confrontation going on. I had to read over it a couple of times before finally understanding it. When they attacked the city where the caravan was staying I was really surprised because the city was assured to be a safe place. However, because the war was going on the chieftains had no choice but to keep it going which is why they attacked the camp. I also thought that it was extremely important that the boy met the Alchemist. When the two of them were talking the boy said that he had already found his treasure; the camel, money, and Fatima. The Alchemist assures the boy that those things are just material things, not his true treasure which is completing his personal legend and traveling to the pyramids. From reading this section I feel as though many people see their personal treasures as just the material things, but I believe that someone’s true treasure is reaching their highest goals and completing their own personal legends.

One characteristic that spans from the past to the future is the demand for material things. As I said before, people look at their treasures very differently. In the boys case his idea of treasure was more materialistic; the camel, Fatima, and money. In contrast, the Alchemist saw his treasure as completing his personal legends and completing the journey he had started. Today the older and wiser look at treasures as the Alchemist does, which is the things that really matter in life. Younger kids, such as teenagers, tend to look as their treasures as the money, cars, relationships, etcetera. These ways have existed in the past as it did in “The Alchemist” and they still remain the same today.